

BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

BLOOD GASES IN CLINICAL PRACTICE—Leopoldo Lapuerta, MD, Chairman, Department of Medicine, Medical Director of Respiratory Therapy, Santa Rosa Medical Center, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Texas Medical School, San Antonio. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, IL (62717), 1976. 117 pages, \$12.50.

This book, clearly based on an extensive clinical experience, is directed towards the needs of those who bear clinical responsibility for patient care.

The content of the book is aptly described by the title, with the emphasis on the use of blood gas data in the interpretation of pathophysiology and in the rational management of a wide variety of respiratory diseases. The choice of material and its organization are appropriate, and the discussions are an accurate reflection of current practices in the field.

The level of sophistication of the exposition would be most appropriate for intensive-care nurses, senior medical students, and residents in surgery, internal medicine and family practice. The book could be profitably used by physicians beginning subspecialty training in pulmonary medicine as an introductory overview.

The brevity of the book, commendable in itself, necessarily results in superficiality which at times is a distinct disservice to the reader. For example, the ominous prognostic significance of hypercapnia (or even eucapnia) in an asthmatic attack is mentioned only indirectly. In the discussion of positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP), deleterious effects such as barotrauma and reduced cardiac output are not mentioned. CPAP is defined as "Continuous Positive Ambient Pressure" (referring possibly to Texas hurricanes?) and its solitary appearance occurs inappropriately, in the lone paragraph devoted to ventilator weaning.

The indexer, obviously someone other than the author, has confused P_{O_2} (oxygen tension in capillary blood) with P_{CO_2} (carbon dioxide tension). The entry "Hypoxia, tissue" is followed by no less than 29 page numbers without any subheadings.

The literary style is "conversational" throughout and at times is clumsy. Nevertheless, it is always possible to follow the author's meaning, with the exception of the legend for Figure 4, which is persistently cryptic.

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ELEMENTS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY—Allen J. Enelow, MD, Professor of Health Behavior, University of the Pacific, Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco; Director, Division of Health Behavior, West Coast Cancer Foundation, Oxford University Press, 200 Madison Ave., New York City (10016), 1977. 146 pages, \$8.95 (cloth), \$3.95 (paper).

This short book by Dr. Enelow, who has written extensively on psychotherapy in the psychiatric literature, fills its intended purpose quite well. It is designed to appeal to any health professionals who may in their careers be engaged in psychotherapy, and although it is directed at students, it was refreshingly informative to an experienced therapist.

The book's strong points are its comprehensive description of many therapeutic techniques with the emphasis on insight oriented psychotherapy. Dr. Enelow opera-

tionally defines many terms, such as support, confrontation, interpretation and the like, which are widely used but often not well understood as concepts, even by therapists with considerable experience. In some respects, this is a practical how-to-do-it book, and while it lacks depth it is quite concise in some areas. The chapter on crisis intervention is particularly useful and this, like many of the other chapters, is illustrated with vivid case vignettes.

Certainly some of the material on group psychotherapy, which includes some of the less widely practiced forms of psychotherapy, is quite superficial; however, there are adequate references for further exploration in these areas. As Dr. Enelow rightly points out in his introduction, psychotherapy can be learned only through practice under supervision. I would suggest this book be read by all those health professionals who are beginning students of psychotherapy.

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GENERAL OPHTHALMOLOGY—Eighth Edition—Daniel Vaughan, MD, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; and Taylor Asbury, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, Director, Department of Ophthalmology, College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati; Illustrated by Laurel V. Schaubert. Lange Medical Publishers, Drawer L, Los Altos, CA (94022), 1977, 379 pages, \$12.00.

Eight editions of *General Ophthalmology* have been produced since 1958. It is now available in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish. This is probably the ophthalmology text most widely used by medical students throughout the world. It is soft-bound, well-illustrated with photographs and diagrams, and is logically and clearly written. The selling price remains reasonable.

The text begins with lucid reviews of anatomy, embryology, and senescence. The performance of the ocular examination is reviewed. Chapter 4 provides a discussion of the principles of management of common ocular disorders, including suggestions for categories of ocular disorder requiring referral to an ophthalmologist. The remainder of the first half of the book is organized along structural lines, with chapters on each of the major anatomic elements of the eye and orbit, such as lens, retina, cornea, uveal tract and so forth.

The last half of the book is system-oriented, with chapters on such topics as neuro-ophthalmology, strabismus, systemic diseases and genetic disorders. New material is presented on ultrasonography and C-T scanning. The overall length has been increased by 45 pages (to 379 pages) since the 7th edition, without sacrificing the clarity and relevance of the earlier versions. The layout is attractive, inviting the student to read onward.

This book is an outstanding aid to medical students or physicians wishing to learn about the eye and the visual system.

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